



**For Immediate Release
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**MERRIMACK RIVER BOAT RAMPS IN LOWELL AND LAWRENCE REMAIN
CLOSED BUT SALISBURY BEACH BOAT RAMP IS OPEN**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Office of Fishing and Boating Access at the Department of Fish and Game today released the following update for Memorial Day weekend regarding public boat ramps on the Merrimack River impacted by recent flooding:

The City of Lowell Harbormaster has determined that the water level is still too high and the current is too strong to allow boats onto the Merrimack River. Therefore, DCR's boat ramp on Pawtucket Boulevard remains closed until the public safety risk has passed. The situation at the boat ramp will be re-evaluated early next week. The parking lot for the boat ramp is also closed to the public until further notice. DCR is continuing to remove debris from this lot caused by floods and downed trees from the micro-burst storm on Sunday.

The boat ramp at DCR's Riverfront State Park on Everett Street in Lawrence is currently closed. The City of Lawrence, through their Department of Public Works (DPW) and Police Department, maintains the boat ramp and controls access by opening and closing the gate. The gate to the boat ramp is currently closed until the DPW completes removal of the large piles of silt and other debris covering the parking lot and boat ramp caused by the flooding. In addition, the safety boom in the river is no longer in place and until that boom is reinstalled, the boat ramp will remain closed.

After consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard, DCR has installed the docks at the boat ramp area of Salisbury Beach State Reservation, located at the mouth of the Merrimack River. Access to this boat ramp is through the state reservation, which as of May 27 charges a \$7 day use fee to visitors (a DCR Annual ParkPass is also available at \$35 for Massachusetts residents and \$45 for non-residents).

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